

Millett Mansion
9th and Brazos Streets
Austin, Travis County
Texas

HABS No. TEX-3142

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227-AUST
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Western Office, Division of Design and Construction
450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California

PHOTOGRAPH-DATA BOOK REPORT
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Millett Mansion
Austin, Travis County, Texas

ADDRESS: 9TH and Brazos Streets

OWNER: Structure razed January 21, 1963

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

C. F. Millett developed a profitable lumber supply business in Austin during the Reconstruction era. His establishment included a steam saw and planing mill and along with the usual sash and doors he manufactured furniture for local sale. With the advent of widespread prosperity during the last quarter of the century, Millett diversified his business interests by constructing Millett's Opera House and adjacent to it, Millett's Mansion. The Mansion was one of the many similar boarding houses erected in Austin at the time in response to the needs of a prosperous travelling public. It had the appearance of a town house and was designed in the conservative Victorian fashion then in vogue. It may be considered as a representative example of that building type, now since vanished from the American scene.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

C. F. Millett first appears in literary evidence in an 1873 Austin City Directory as a "wholesale and retail dealer in Sash, Doors, and Blinds, Lumber, Shingles and Building Materials, Steam Saw and Planning Mill, Ash Street near Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas". An 1873 aerial perspective of the city of Austin clearly shows the lumber yard and its facilities. The site just east of the yard the later site of Millett's Mansion is shown a two story residential structure facing south.

The first indication of Millett's Mansion is found in an Austin City Directory, that of 1881-1882, under the caption of "Private Boarding at the New Millett Mansion, by Mrs. S. J. Orr". Mrs. Orr operated her own boarding house and restaurant in 1879-1880. On the basis of this evidence the Mansion is considered to have been constructed in 1880. Advertisements and listings in subsequent City Directories show that the Mansion was still used as a boarding house in this century. Millett's residence never occupied this site for it is listed in 1873 as being elsewhere. At the time of Millett's death in 1890, the Mansion was leased yearly for the price of \$100.00 per month.

The structure was in use until razed January, 1963.

SOURCES AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

1) Austin City Directories:

1873
1879-80
1881-82
1887-88
1891-92
1893-94
1897-98

2) Published Map, "Partial View of Austin Texas" Filleau, Interstate Publishing Company, Kansas City, (c. 1891), Austin Travis County Collection, Austin Public Library, Austin, Texas.

3) Published Map, "Birds Eye View of City of Austin, Travis County", Augustas Koch, 1873. Austin Travis County Collection, Austin Public Library, Austin, Texas.

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

Architectural Description: Rectangular three story block; one story porch on front facade, three story gallery on side.

Condition of Fabric: Razed

EXTERIOR

Wall Construction: Brick with cut stone quoins.

Porches: One story porch across front facade, flat roof supported by square section wooden columns; moulded capitals supporting curved impost blocks and consoles, moulded cornice. Side galleries of late date: turned balusters and columns.

Chimneys: Interior, brick.

Doorways and Doors: Double door; moulded transom bar, two light transom above. Cutstone arch with exaggerated keystone.

Windows: 1/1 light double hung wood sash. Windows used in pairs.

Cornice and Eaves: Modillions under eaves; moulded cornice.

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

Orientation and General Setting: Building faced east onto Brazos Street side facade faced onto E. 9TH Street. Normal front setbacks with sidewalk between building and front curb. Side street set back of approximately five feet with three story gallery overhanging sidewalk.

Prepared by,

John C. Garner, Jr.

John C. Garner, Jr.

October, 1965

APPROVED:

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DATE: *December 20, 1965*

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